

Process Evaluation

A process evaluation is essentially a description of a program. The purpose of a process evaluation is to describe the key aspects of each program and how it is unique. Information is collected about program objectives, its rationale, the participants or intended participants, procedures for selecting participants, intervention components, and other important aspects of the Drug Court program.

Once the final process evaluation report is completed, it will then be released to the Administrative Office of the Courts and funding sources including Office of Justice Programs and Drug Courts Programs Office. The Kentucky Justice Cabinet, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the State Justice Institute, The National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Drug Court Institute, and American University will receive copies. It will be available to other Drug Court programs for comparison and review.

A part of this process evaluation is to talk to a variety of key people who work with, or plan to work with, the Drug Court program. Representatives who will be interviewed include the **Judges** and **Administrators**. **Program staff, current clients and their families, and treatment facility representatives**, if available, are asked to complete in-depth surveys about their involvement with the Drug Court program. Other key community representatives are sent surveys concerning their involvement with the Drug Court program. These representatives include **Law enforcement officials** (e.g., *Police, Jail staff, Probation and Parole Officers*) and **Defense and Prosecuting Attorneys**.

Additional information concerning the Drug Court program is also gathered and included with the report. Information includes:

1. Newspaper articles and other media about the Drug Court program
2. Program brochures and manuals
3. Assessment examples
4. Client calendar examples
5. Potential target population characteristics
6. Potential treatment modalities to be used by the Drug Court program.

This information will be collected from the Drug Court administrator.

After all the interviews have been conducted and the surveys and data have been collected, a draft of the report will be written. The Drug Court Manager, Drug Court Judges, and program administrator will review the drafts before a final report is written.

The process evaluation will result in an in-depth report of the program and how key community representatives plan to work with the program. The evaluation will reflect the unique aspects of the Fayette Juvenile Drug Court program.

Needs Assessment

A statewide Drug Court Needs Assessment was conducted by the Center on Drug and Alcohol Research during 1999. The purpose of this project was to determine the counties in the State of Kentucky in which a Drug Court program would be needed and feasible.

Counties in which a Drug Court program was already in place or being planned were excluded from the assessment.

The assessment was conducted in two phases. Phase I of this project focused on county wide data collection and data analysis.

Phase II focused on the feasibility of implementing a Drug Court program in the counties identified and on more in-depth community resources and county demographic, economic, and social indicators.

Results of Phase I indicated that of 107 counties included in the study (out of 120 counties in Kentucky) 12 were identified for further assessment.

Results of Phase II indicated that, of the 12 counties identified for further assessment, four counties were ready to move toward an implementation of a Drug Court program by applying for a planning grant.

Four counties were close to being ready to applying for a planning grant, but need further information about Drug Court programs.

Two counties indicated they could utilize extensive information about a Drug Court program but have Judges that are supportive of the idea.

About half of the counties in each category had adequate community resources and half had more limited resources. Several counties were found to be supportive of a juvenile Drug Court program.

Finally, two counties were not able to consider a Drug Court program at the time of this study.

The final needs assessment report has been finalized.